

## Crime Light at Capitol; 'Scrooge' Opens at Little

By Joy Carmody

"THE LIGHT TOUCH," a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, produced by Pandro S. Berman, directed by Richard Brooks, starring by Richard Brooks, narrated by story by Joe Harris and Tom Reid. At the Little.

The Cast: Stewart Granger, Anna Yawari, Felix Guinness, Mr. Armstrong, L. Massing, Mr. R. P. Hawley, Mr. MacWade, Anton Charles.

It seems a long time since the movies bothered their heads about that most polished and amusing of criminal types, the one who deals in stealing and faking art masterpieces.

This is corrected to some extent in "The Light Touch" at the Capitol where such suave fellows as Stewart Granger and George Sanders are reduced to ultimate shame by a lovely and honorable small girl played by Pier Angeli. It is not a perfect comedy melody drama but it is so superior to those rawer works dealing with the murder and muscle boys that Hollywood might give the latter a long vacation.

The Mediterranean area, both shores, is the setting of "The Light Touch" and Granger and Sanders epitomize the polished types who prey upon it.

They are distrustful partners in swiping painting masterpieces, even those in Italy's churches. It is a poisonous business in which every man suspects every gesture of his associate, but they somehow manage a polite avoidance of the murders they would like to commit.

It is while trying to outwit each other in the theft of a \$100,000 painting that Granger and Sanders come into the innocent orbit of Miss Angeli. She is a beautiful, sly, small angel with a great talent for painting and a while, Granger smooth talks her into making reproductions of the stolen masterpiece.

Undertaking to dupe a good little girl, however, turns out to be one of the stupidest mistakes a clever art thief can make. Miss Angeli is so moral that the amoral Granger finds her as rare and fascinating as the pictures he steals. Before he realizes where this can lead a man, he would rather have her than all the easy money his profession has provided.

Richard Brooks' direction of "The Light Touch" is adroitly bent upon making it a sound blend of comedy, romance, suspense, and ultimate morality. He has assured himself of bringing this off pleasantly by hiring one of the fine casts that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer can so easily afford.

He is most lucky in finding Miss Angeli, a fragile spirit who is the perfect good and irresistible fairy for redeeming such a charming scoundrel as Granger.

"The Light Touch" was photographed in the Mediterranean area which always lies a little beyond the cleverest fakery of Hollywood. It thus acquires an atmosphere that is immeasurably to its advantage dramatically.

One of the funniest men in the funny business, Billy De Wolfe, headlines this week's stage show at the Capitol, running through a large repertoire of the routines that never seem to become tiresome. Ladd Lyon, another clownish sort; Jane Dulo, a talented vocalist; and Bud and Cece Robinson complete the bill.

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LOVELY SPITE—Pier Angeli, MGM's Italian mite, who reforms a whole band of charming scoundrels in "The Light Touch," current screen feature at the Capitol.

## Another Victory B-29 Conquers The Scenario in Warner Film

By Harry MacArthur

"THE WILD BLUE YONDER," a Republic picture, directed by Allan Dwan, starring by Wendell Corey and Vera Ralston. At the Little.

The British Empire and the Little Theater have collaborated in the generous impulse to see that every one has Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" for the holidays. It is slightly masked under the title "Scrooge" and the letter of the classic has been changed somewhat in Noel Langley's script. The flavor, however, remains Dickensian and Alastair Sim in the villain role makes it a film the discriminating would not care to miss.

The thought may occasionally disturb the spectator that this is a more adult production than otherwise, but such a notion ignores what television has taught the modern child. The latter has seen so many cowboys dispatched to ghostland that the ghosts of "Scrooge" might well seem innocuous.

All of the familiar characters of Dickens' colorful work are present in "Scrooge," but the camera's interest is almost completely focused upon the villain played by Sim. This is a man of superlative sourness and colossal selfishness. For all beings weaker than himself, he has only a poisonous scorn and the hope that they may quickly disappear from sight into debtors' prisons or early graves.

No actor ever played Scrooge with more enthusiastic demonism than Sim is at his best in the trick of keeping alive constantly the intimation that the man is not beyond redemption.

In giving his portrait the full details of wickedness, he is abetted by an all-star cast of cast of English players obviously dedicated to a beloved classic piece. No part is too minor or fleeting in the production for an internationally known English actor to turn up in it, as for instance Peter Bull as the First Business Man.

The most dramatic area of "Scrooge" that of the appearance of Marley's ghost and the succession of Christmas spirits, is handled with high dexterity by Director Brian Desmond Hurst. Here, of course, the evil man is at the mercy of his host of victims. Before he is allowed to feel it, he is put through enough purifying fires to make the Christmas atmosphere everywhere, except Russia, more happily breathable.

It is most thoughtful of England and the Little Theater to have collaborated thusly.

**Where and When**  
Current Theater Attractions  
And Time of Showing

Arena Stage—"Burning Bright": 8:30 p.m.  
Catholic University—"The Cherry Orchard": 8:30 p.m.  
New Gateway—"Legend of Lovers": 8:30 p.m.

Screen.  
Ambassador—"The Wild Blue Yonder": 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:25 and 9:35 p.m.  
Capitol—"The Light Touch": 11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15 and 10:00 p.m. Stage: 12:50, 3:40, 6:25 and 9:10 p.m.  
Columbia—"Warpath": 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50 and 9:50 p.m.  
Dupont—"Salerno Beachhead": 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 and 9:30 p.m.  
Keith's—"On Dangerous Ground": 11:45 a.m., 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50 and 9:50 p.m.  
Little—"Scrooge": 6:20, 8:10 and 9:50 p.m.  
Metropolitan—"Passage West": 11:50 a.m., 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50 and 9:50 p.m.  
National—"Sudan": 11:25 a.m., 1:05, 2:55, 4:40, 6:25, 8:10 and 10 p.m.  
Ontario—"Journey Into Light": 1:00, 2:55, 4:45, 6:40, 8:40 and 10:40 p.m.  
Palace—"Westward the Women": 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15 and 9:45 p.m.  
Playhouse—"The River": 2:30 and 8:30 p.m.  
Plaza—"The Lavender Hill Mob": 10:30 a.m., 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:15, 6:55, 8:40 and 10:20 p.m.  
Trans-Lux—"A Place in the Sun": 10:55 a.m., 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:55 p.m.  
Warner—"The Wild Blue Yonder": 11:15 a.m., 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:45 p.m.

## Hollywood Diary

Granger Is Male Star  
In Greatest Demand

By Sheila Graham

HOLLYWOOD. Every one wants Farley Granger. Joe Pasternak is asking for him for Jane Powell's "Small Town Girl." Vincent Minnelli is trying to get him for Leslie Caron's Beau in "Mademoiselle." There's talk of teaming him with Pier Angeli in "Autobahn." Everything depends on Farley's starting and finishing date in "Hans Christian Andersen."

Miss Powell's picture—her next, incidentally—is a comedy with music, and the only thing in common with the original "Small Town Girl" starring Janet Gaynor and Robert Taylor, is the title.

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London night-club appearance, has a date in the Palace in New York. The question is, is Noel strong enough to follow Judy Garland?

Russell Nype can repeat his "Call Me Madame" role at 20th-Fox if he will sign a long-term contract there. That's a cinch. I've never seen any one take so easily to California sunshine as Russell. Besides, I think he'd like to wash his Metro experiences out of his hair.

Doris Day, in "I'll See You In My Dreams," is better than I've ever seen or heard her. And thank goodness some one finally gave Danny Thomas a part he could get his teeth into. He's excellent as Gus Kahn.

Dick Powell has been kayoed with the virus, and this has dithered his plan for a New York vacation with wife June Allyson. They may go later.

Joseph Cotten, Gregory Peck, Loretta Young and Penny Singleton are among the group of stars on the Voice of America broadcast for Italy with Argentina Brunetti. The taped show will be heard from Rome on Christmas.

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Eve. It was a fascinating experience. Betty Grable's name is conspicuous by its absence from the 14 excellent new films ready for release at 20th-Fox. All of which proves no one is indispensable.

Yvonne de Carlo insists there is nothing but friendship with Mario Cabre. But the poetic bull-fighter is due in Hollywood very soon—to see Yvonne, and to make a movie. Yvonne is interested in making a Biblical picture. "They have everything—love, murder, hate; there's nothing dull about the Bible. It has great commercial appeal." Cecil B. de Mille discovered this first. His "King of Kings," made 24 years ago, is still drawing audiences all over the world.

Marie MacDonald's Harry Karl is putting up the dollars for the Trocadero reopening. Understand the top-liner will be Jack Carson.

Dennis Day says he won't do more than one TV show every two weeks. "It's killing Alan Young," he says. Alan also plans to limit himself to one show every two weeks.

(Released by North American Newspaper Alliance, Inc.)

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AVE. GRAND "Happy Go Lovely," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
BEVERLY Free Parking, Broderick Johnson, "The Sign of the Cross," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
CALVERT Free Parking, Broderick Johnson, "The Sign of the Cross," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
CENTRAL Hugu Haak, "Pick-Up," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
COLONY Ronald Reagan, Rhonda Fleming, "The Last Outpost," 6:30, 9:45, Harold Lloyd, "Mad Wednesday," 8:00 P.M. only.  
KENNEDY Farley Granger, Shelley Winters, "Behave Yourself," 6:15, 8:20, 10:25, 12:30.  
PENN. Joseph Cotten, Barbara Stanwyck, "The Man With a Cloak," 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50, 10:55.  
SAVOY Cary Grant, "Gunga Din," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
SECO Silver Spring, "Free Parking, Broderick Johnson, "The Sign of the Cross," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
SHERIDAN Steve Cochran, Phillip Carey, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
SILVER Silver Spring, "Free Parking, Broderick Johnson, "The Sign of the Cross," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
TAKOMA Free Parking, James Cagney, Barbara Payton, "Drums in the Deep South," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
TIVOLI Carey, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
UPDOWN Steve Cochran, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.

**HYATTSVILLE** Farley Granger, Shelley Winters, "Behave Yourself," 6:15, 8:20, 10:25, 12:30.  
**CHEVERLY** James Mason, "The Desert Fox," 8:15.  
**MARLBORO** Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan, "The Sign of the Cross," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35.  
**KEYWOOD** Steve Cochran, Phillip Carey, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**ALLEN** H. A. H. & E. W. Hwy. Steve Cochran, Phillip Carey, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**BETHESDA** Open 6 p.m. Show, David Wayne, "The Mark of the Renegade," (Technicolor), 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. Last complete show, 9.  
**VIERS MILL** Steve Cochran, Phillip Carey, "The Tanks Are Coming," 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**MILO** Ray Milland, Joan Sterling, "Rhubarb," 7:20, 9:15.  
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**APEX** 4813 Mass. Ave. N.W. Doors Open 6 P.M. RING COTTON BARBARA STANWYCK, "THE MAN WITH A CLOAK," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35. Starts Tomorrow, RAY MILLAND, "RUBARB," Plus 1 P.M. Only. BURT LANCASTER, "ROPE OF SAND."

**FLORIDA** Piney B. Rd. & Flower Show, David Wayne, "The Mark of the Renegade," (Technicolor), 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. Starts Tomorrow, RAY MILLAND, "RUBARB," Plus 1 P.M. Only. BURT LANCASTER, "ROPE OF SAND."  
**MACARTHUR** 4859 MacArthur Blvd. O. 4600 Doors Open 6 P.M. RING COTTON BARBARA STANWYCK, "THE MAN WITH A CLOAK," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35. Starts Tomorrow, RAY MILLAND, "RUBARB," Plus 1 P.M. Only. BURT LANCASTER, "ROPE OF SAND."  
**ONTARIO** 17th & Columbia Rd. N.W. Doors Open 6 P.M. RING COTTON BARBARA STANWYCK, "THE MAN WITH A CLOAK," 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35. Starts Tomorrow, RAY MILLAND, "RUBARB," Plus 1 P.M. Only. BURT LANCASTER, "ROPE OF SAND."  
**AIRPORT DRIVE-IN** Arlington. "NO HIGHWAYS IN THE SKY," JAMES STEWART, at 7:30 P.M. "FATHER IS A BACHELOR," WILLIAM HOLDEN, at 9:00 P.M. "THE LAST FIVE MINUTES," RAY MILLAND, at 10:30 P.M. "TEXAS CARNIVAL," and "WOMAN OF DINGEN," 8:30 and 10:00 P.M.

**STATE** Ann Blythe, "The Golden Trail," 11:45.  
**ARLINGTON** "The Tanks Are Coming," Steve Cochran.  
**WILSON** Ann Blythe, "The Golden Trail," 11:45.  
**ASHTON** Wayne Morris, in color.  
**GLEBE** Skelton, Esther Williams, in Technicolor.  
**BUCKINGHAM** "The Mob," Broderick Johnson.  
**BYRD** "Drums in the Deep South," in color, Guy Madison.  
**JEFFERSON** "The Day the Earth Stood Still," Patricia Neal.

**FAIRLAWN Amusement Co.**  
**HIGHLAND** 2523 Pa. Ave. S.E. LU 4-7311 Double Feature, JOHN HALL, in "WHEN THE RED RODE," Color, at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. RALPH BURN, in "THE DESERT FOX," at 7:30, 10:00.  
**ATLANTIC** Nichols Ave. & Atlantic St. JO 3-5000 STEVE COCHRAN in "THE TANKS ARE COMING," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**CONGRESS** 2931 Nichols Ave. S.E. JO 2-8777 JAMES MASON in "THE DESERT FOX," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**ANACOSTIA** 1415 Good Hope Rd. S.E. DI 2-2424 Two Release Hits, JOHNNY WEISSMULLER in "TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE WOMAN," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. Plus RANDOLPH SCOTT in "CHINA SKY," at 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45.  
**CORAL** Marlboro Pike at Dist. Line LU 5-1511 Free Parking JAMES MASON in "THE DESERT FOX," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. LAUREL 113 "RUBARB," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.  
**CAPITOL** Capitol Heights, Md. HI 4-740 Double Feature, JOHN HALL, in "WHEN THE RED RODE," Color, at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. Plus RANDOLPH SCOTT in "CHINA SKY," at 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45.  
**PARK** 3000 13th St. S.E. JO 2-2233 JAMES CAGNEY, in "THE MAN WITH A CLOAK," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20. YVONNE DECARLO, "BUCCA NEER'S GIRL."  
**FAIRFAX** Fairfax, Va. Phone 780. "THE PROWLER," VAN HEFLIN, EVELYN KEYES.  
**CIRCLE** 2106 Pa. Ave. N.W. RE 018 JAMES CAGNEY, in "THE MAN WITH A CLOAK," at 6:30, 9:45, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20.

**REED** 1723 King St. Alex. 3445 RUTH ROMAN, STEVE COCHRAN, "TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY."  
**VIRGINIA** Memorial Blvd. & 1st St. Alex. 6133 ERROL FLYNN, MICHELLE PRELL, "ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN FARIAS."  
**CENTRE** Fairfax, Va. TE 1008 "THE RACKET," ROBERT MITCHUM, LIZABETH SCOTT.  
**SHIRLINGTON** Parkfairfax "THE TANKS ARE COMING," STEVE COCHRAN, MARIE ALDEN.

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